

Summertime Doesn't Mean Lighter Traffic

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by Doug Ramsey/KTAR

Summertime in the Valley used to mean lighter traffic. But Harold Sanders of DPS said our rapid growth means rush hours are now basically the same all year long.

"It's still going to be about 5 a.m. and starts to let up by 9 - 9:30 a.m.," Sanders said. "In the afternoon, it's picking up actually by 2 o' clock, and we don't get too much of a decrease 'til close to 6:30 p.m. - 7 o' clock."

Sanders said in just the last five years, morning and evening rush periods have lengthened by as much as two hours.

This summer, you'll be seeing a lot of major highway projects starting as well.

"I-17 north of Loop 101, we're going to start bridge construction. State Route 51 from the North Valley from Shea Boulevard to the Loop 101; and then later in the summer the Loop 101, itself, carpool lanes are going in," said ADOT's Doug Nintzel.

Nintzel said the only shift in summer traffic involves construction workers heading for the job a couple of hours earlier.